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Louisiana-- Adjutant-general's
Office.

Report...

APPENDIX.

R E P O R T

OF THE

A D J U T A N T G E N E R A L.

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REPORT

OF THE

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

ADJUTANT & INSPECTOR GEN'L'S OFFICE,
BATON ROUGE, Jan'y 15, 1854.

GOVERNOR:

I have the honor to submit my report on the Militia for the past year, for transmission to the Legislature. Entering on my duties, by your appointment, in March last, my attention was first directed to some unfinished correspondence with the Ordnance Department of the United States Army, relative to the quota of arms due the State from the General Government. When this was arranged, the quota due the State, one hundred and thirty six percussion muskets and one hundred and thirty six percussion rifles, were received by me. On my visit to New Orleans to inspect the State Arsenal, I found the roof of the building in such a condition as to require immediate repairs, which I ordered, the cost of which and the sums necessary for the payment of the bills for coal and water for the Arsenal, were paid out of the Contingent Fund of the Executive, by your direction, although not properly chargeable to it, as there was no other fund from which they could be paid.

An agent for a manufacturing Arms Company being in New Orleans, made me a proposition to percussion all the State arms of old pattern, for \$1 per piece, and several propositions to take fifty-two Hall's rifles, belonging to the State, in part payment, were made. The final offer of his house, Hitchcock & Co., I annex, as some action by the Legislature is necessary before any contract can be entered into on the subject.

—
NEW YORK, August 15, 1853.

GEN. S. M. WESTMORE,

DEAR SIR:

Yours of the 8th inst., is at hand; would say in reply, are willing to alter the arms of La., as proposed, and take the Hall's rifles at their full market value among the trade, say \$2 50; at which price we sold the rifles issued to the State of New York, which had never been out of the cases. We purchased

them at \$2. We are anxious to alter the arms of your State, and are willing and able to do it cheaper than the United States can afford to work, but do not want to take arms in payment for more than market value. The offer our Mr. B. made was, alteration \$1, taking in payment muskets in fair shooting condition, at \$1 87½. That you may see how fair we are, would say, we have purchased several large lots, during the past two months, at \$1 75; and we are now in treaty with one of the largest Northern States for all their old arms at \$1 50.

Yours, etc.,

HITCHCOCK & CO.

The reorganization of the Militia, under the law of the last Legislature, has proceeded but slowly. Commissions have been declined by some who were relied on to aid in the important work—others have not been heard from in reply, and but few of those accepting commissions have complied with the requirements of the law. Indifference, approaching repugnance, appears to exist to a great extent among our citizens, which cannot be overcome without a tour through all the parishes of the State, to be made by the Adjutant General, to excite emulation and induce gentlemen to aid in executing the law. The present insignificant salary allowed this officer, precludes any such tour, unless at the sacrifice of all his pecuniary interests. In the parish of Orleans, the limits of the fifteen Regiments, numbering from one to fifteen, into which it is divided, have been defined, and as the other parishes each furnish a regiment, they have been designated by the names of the parishes, without numbering them.

The Volunteer Corps of the City of New Orleans are well equipped, well commanded and in a state of good discipline. Their importance to the City and State cannot be magnified, and no public money is better applied than the usual annual allowance made by the Legislature for their partial support.

The law of the last Legislature needs amendment, and I respectfully call attention

to the following sections. The 17th section, which regulates the rank of Staff Officers, omits the rank of Quarter Master and Paymaster of Division, which officers the 14th section establishes.

The 23d section requires Colonels to be elected by officers of the line of the *Division*, instead of the *Regiment*, thus making an *inferior* (a Colonel) elective by a larger body than his *superior* (a Brigadier General). It requires the election to be ordered by the Commander in Chief, instead

of the Brigadier General of the Brigade, to which the Regiment is attached, when a Brigadier General's election is ordered by the Major General.

The 24th section, relative to the election of Lieutenant Colonels and Majors, is defective in a similar manner.

S. M. WESTMORE,
Adj't & Ins. Gen. of La.
Gov. P. O. HEBERT,
of Louisiana.

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